

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 and 13 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A developing apparatus comprising:  
a developer carrying member for carrying a developer;  
a developer regulating member, contacted to said developer carrying member, for regulating a thickness of a layer of the developer on said developer carrying member; and  
a lubricant, provided in a contact portion ~~lubricant provided, before said developing apparatus begins being used,~~ between said developer carrying member and said developer regulating member before the developer is carried on said developer member,  
wherein a charge polarity of said lubricant is opposite to a charge polarity of said developer, and a weight average particle size of said lubricant is not more than 1/3 of a weight average particle size of said developer.

2. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said lubricant comprises spherical particles having an average circularity not less than 0.90.

3. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said lubricant comprises polymer particle.

4. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a weight average particle size (pm) of said lubricant is smaller than an arithmetic average roughness Ra value (μm) of a surface of said developer carrying member.

5. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the charge polarity of said developer is negative, and said lubricant comprises melamine resin material particles.

6. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the charge polarity of said developer is positive, and said lubricant comprises fluorine resin material particles.

7. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said lubricant has a weight average particle size of  $0.01\mu\text{m} - 1.5\mu\text{m}$ .

8. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said lubricant has a weight average particle size of  $0.01\mu\text{m} - 3\mu\text{m}$ .

9. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a coating amount of said lubricant on said developer regulating member is  $1.5\text{g/m}^2 - 15\text{g/m}^2$ .

10. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a coating amount of said lubricant on said developer regulating member is  $0.18\text{g/m}^2 - 1.9\text{g/m}^2$ .

11. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said developer contains not less than 90%, by number base cumulative value, of particles having not less

than 3 $\mu$ m corresponding diameters and having not less than 0.900 circularities, and wherein a weight average particle size X of said developer, and a number base cumulative value Y (%) of the particles having not less than 0.950 circularities, satisfy:

$$Y \geq \exp 5.51 \times X^{-0.645}$$

$$(5.0 < X \leq 12.0).$$

12. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said developing apparatus is provided in a cartridge detachably mountable to a main assembly of an image forming apparatus.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A developing apparatus comprising:  
a developer carrying member for carrying a developer;  
a developer regulating member, contacted to said developer carrying member, for regulating a thickness of a layer of the developer on said developer carrying member; and  
a lubricant, provided in a contact portion ~~lubricant provided, before said developing apparatus begins being used,~~ between said developer carrying member and said developer regulating member before the developer is carried on said developer carrying member,  
wherein a charge polarity of said lubricant is opposite to a charge polarity of said developer, and wherein a weight average particle size ( $\mu$ m) of said lubricant is smaller than an arithmetic average roughness Ra value ( $\mu$ m) of a surface of said developer carrying member.

14. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said lubricant comprises spherical particles having an average circularity not less than 0.90.
15. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said lubricant comprises polymer particle.
16. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the charge polarity of said developer is negative, and said lubricant comprises melamine resin material particles.
17. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the charge polarity of said developer is positive, and said lubricant comprises fluorine resin material particles.
18. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said lubricant has a weight average particle size of  $0.01\mu\text{m}$ - $1.5\mu\text{m}$ .
19. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said lubricant has a weight average particle size of  $0.01\mu\text{m}$ - $3\mu\text{m}$ .
20. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein a coating amount of said lubricant on said developer regulating member is  $1.5\text{g}/\text{m}^2$  -  $15\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ .
21. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein a coating amount of said lubricant on said developer regulating member is  $0.18\text{g}/\text{m}^2$  -  $1.9\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ .

22. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said developer contains not less than 90%, by number base cumulative value, of particles having not less than 3 $\mu$ m corresponding diameters and having not less than 0.900 circularities, and wherein a weight average particle size X of said developer, and a number base cumulative value Y (%) of the particles having not less than 0.950 circularities, satisfy:

$$Y \geq \exp 5.51 \times X^{-0.645}$$

$$(5.0 < X \leq 12.0).$$

23. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said developing apparatus is provided in a cartridge detachably mountable to a main assembly of an image forming apparatus.